



February 1, 2010

Bonds & Grants Unit
Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on Proposal Final Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities Grant
Guidelines for PROJECTS and PLANNING

Dear SGC Members, Staff, and Urban Greening Technical Committee Members,

We commend the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), SGC staff, and the members of the technical advisory committee for developing the proposed final grant guidelines for the Proposition 84 Urban Greening funds.

We are very pleased with the general approach and framework of the draft guidelines and have a few lingering questions and requests for clarification.

Planning Grants

- Would the program fund the “greening” of plans or projects that are in progress or existing, but not yet implemented, in order to make that plan or project more sustainable and multi-purpose (e.g. a water quality plan that currently does not include green infrastructure)? This would provide incentives for new partners to get involved in improving traditional grey infrastructure projects.
- Would the program fund expanding and/or updating existing plans if those revisions were substantial (e.g. an out-of-date urban forest master plan)
- Would the early stages of design be an appropriate expenditure under a planning grant (i.e. conceptual design)

Projects

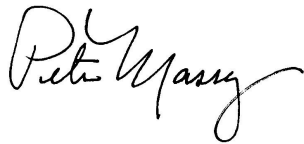
- “Improvements to roads for motorized use” are listed as ineligible. Would this also eliminate green street projects, roadside landscaping, street tree programs, curb cuts and other built drainage for infiltration, bioswales, etc. from being eligible?

We also like to reiterate two important points from our previous letter that we do not feel were addressed.

- Expand the eligible entity list to include special districts (i.e. parks and recreation districts), Joint Power Authorities, etc. Many JPAs and special districts have demonstrated success in green projects, and the incorporation of these additional groups to the eligible applicant list is critical.
- Eliminate the \$2 million set aside/\$75,000 maximum on grants to disadvantaged communities. Disadvantaged communities may wish to have larger grants, and are already given priority in the evaluation criteria. If a specific set-aside for disadvantaged communities is desired by the SGC, we suggest maintaining the maximum grant amount of \$1 million and increasing the amount set-aside to accommodate this.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft guidelines. We look forward to participating in the remainder of the guideline development and adoption process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Massey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Massey" clearly legible.

Peter Massey, TreePeople

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Ozonoff". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Martha" and last name "Ozonoff" clearly legible.

Martha Ozonoff, California ReLeaf